

# ACACIAWOOD SCHOOL NEWS

Vol. I, Issue 2

November 6, 2002

## **OUTDOOR EDUCATION FUND RAISER**

Each year, the fifth and sixth graders attend an over-night get-away to learn about the great outdoors and their natural environment. Past destinations have been to Catalina Island and a research vessel in Long Beach harbor. This year, the students will go up to the San Bernadino mountains; i.e., Big Bear area to participate in Outdoor Education. The students are selling beautiful color photo calendars to raise funds to cover the costs for their trip. Each student must sell 59 calendars to meet their needs. Please give them your support. Calendars are \$8 each and make great gifts for friends and relatives. If you want to purchase a calendar, place a stack of calendars in your employer's lunch room or place of business, please contact a fifth-sixth grade student or their teachers.

## **NOVEMBER 13, AWARDS ASSEMBLY**

Each quarter, the school recognizes students who are eligible to receive special awards at an awards assembly. The assembly for first quarter will be held on November 13 at Acaciawood School (AWS). Some of the awards that will be issued are: one Golden Eagle Award (for leadership, character), Faculty Commendation Awards (for something exemplary), and AGATE/Jr. AGATE membership (AWS honor society based on effort and student citizenship).

A highlight of each awards assembly is a music performance put on by students from the elementary school. This musical production is always a "must see" event and we invite all families and friends to attend. This time is also an excellent showcase for parents who are interested in learning about AWS. So please invite parents who are considering AWS for their children to this assembly. The awards assembly will begin at 2:00 pm in the multipurpose room and will conclude at 3:00 pm. We look forward to seeing you there.

## **MINIMUM DAYS & STUDENT PICK-UP TIMES**

Thanksgiving break is coming up at the end of this month, so Wednesday, November 27 is a minimum day at AWS. Students will be dismissed at 1:00 pm. School will be in recess for the winter break beginning December 23 through January 5. Friday, December 20 is a minimum day without PE, and dismissal from school will be at 1:00 pm. School resumes on January 6, 2003. Be sure to mark you calendars!

## **WINDOW ON COLLEGE ADMISSIONS**

An article in the November 2002 *Reader's Digest* entitled "College Applications Made Simple" contains a list of the top 10 factors ranked by the Independent Educational Consultants Association that colleges consider in applications. Taking tough courses and good grades have been consistently ranked

#1 and #2 for the last six years. The personal essay ranked #3, bumped up from #7 in 1996. Colleges want to evaluate if students can communicate effectively and are looking for interesting people to enhance their student body diversity. Being committed to a few co-curricular activities maintained its ranking at #4, unchanged from six years ago. Note that it's better to be dedicated to a few activities rather than a casual member of every club. Test scores like the SAT fell from its former rank of #3 to #5. Test prep classes are so popular that strong scores of 1400 or above do not guarantee admissions into a top college. But scores of 1100 or lower may keep students out. Qualities about a student that promote diversity on the college campus ranked #6, up from #10. Character recommendations moved up one notch to #7. A highly commending letter from a teacher of your hardest subject will probably impress the admission office. Commitment (a new category this year) to get into a particular institution ranked #8. Community service ranked #9, down from #5. In last place (#10), down from #9 was supplemental recommendations such as impersonal letters from Congressmen and the like. In contrast, letters from those who really know you such as a coach or long-term volunteer supervisor can help the schools get a better picture of what kind of person you really are.

## **A WORD OF APPRECIATION TO THE AWS PSG**

Every parent who has students attending Acaciawood School automatically belongs to the Parent Support Group (PSG). The PSG is involved in many projects of different sizes to assist the school in non-academic matters. Some of the projects completed this year include: providing snacks for the Friday faculty meeting, planting flowers around the flagpole, landscaping around the school sign, installing a new fence around the children's play area, placing wall paper in the faculty bathroom and in Room 103, serving hot lunches to students, being a lunch monitor, picking up pizza, serving as a substitute teacher, being a driver-chaperone on student field trips, and planting a new lawn near the administration building. Monies to fund much of the landscaping and all the wall papering came from the annual PSG dues of \$10 per family. Parents can pay their voluntary family dues by dropping off payment at the school office in an envelope marked PSG.

Acaciawood School thanks all the parents for their material and prayerful support of the school. It is truly a refreshment and encouragement to see the parents and their labors here on the school campus.

The next big project is to manage the food concessions during the coming Living Stream Ministry winter training. Parents will be needed to order supplies, serve food, act as cashiers, stock the food area, ice cold drinks, prepare hot water, etc.. If you are able to help during the period of December 23 to December 28, 2002, please contact the PSG. Otherwise, the PSG will create a proposed schedule and

contact the parents to confirm their availability. Parents can also help by getting food donated for the concessions. Items needed include hamburger patties, hotdogs, paper goods, canned soda drinks, bottled water, chips, and whole fruit.

### **SCHOOL POLICY REMINDERS**

- Five or more tardies to class *per semester* will result in a ½ letter grade reduction for each class affected. If nine tardies are accumulated, the grade will be reduced one full letter grade.
- If eight (8) absences are accumulated in one semester in any given class, full credit may not be given. As a minimum, the grade will be lowered one full letter grade for the semester. If circumstances warrant, all credit for the class missed may be forfeited.
- Prearranged absences require a note prior to the absences. Prearranged absences will *not* be excused prior to a scheduled school holiday; i.e., Thanksgiving, winter and spring breaks.

### **LADY EAGLES SOAR HIGH!**

The last volleyball game of the season was played against Eastside Christian High School on November 5 at Sa Rang gymnasium. The winner would play in the California Interscholastic Federation playoffs, a first for the Lady Eagles if they gained the victory. Our Lady Eagles played hard and had the fans on the edge of their seats many times during the games. The winner of the match was Eastside, but it took the fifth game. The games had our Ladies digging, setting, hitting, and serving intensely all the way to the last point. We are very proud of their determination and for the team development that transpired this season. Congratulations to coaches Mrs. Duddy and Ms. Nguyen, and all the Lady Eagles for soaring to record altitudes with a 7&5 season! With 16 Lady Eagles expected to return next season, they are soaring for the peak.

After the game, team captain Phoebe Park was honored with flowers and balloons for being a senior player who will graduate this year and will not be with the Lady Eagles next season. Mr. Miyake stated that Phoebe knows both the “taste of victory and the agony of defeat” by being a dedicated member of the team since volleyball began at AWS in 1999. Her commitment for three years and leadership as captain this year have been key factors in boosting team morale and a super-charged performance this year.

### **AWS AWARDED NEH GRANT**

AcaciaWood School has been awarded an implementation grant of \$98,987 by the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) under the Schools for the New Millennium program. The grant is entitled “Digitally Preserving the Adolescent Memories of World War II: Incorporating Oral History into Humanities Related Curricula.” Over the two years of the grant period AcaciaWood faculty and students will partner with and learn from established oral history programs at CSUF and CSULB. Two video cameras and two computer work stations have been purchased with grant funds for the oral history project. The Anaheim community will be involved as students search for those who experienced World War II as

teenagers in the particular areas of the Holocaust, Homefront, and Japanese Internment. AcaciaWood hopes to capture these living voices digitally and create a digital oral history archive that will be made available to the general public for research. In the end we hope that our students will become more aware and appreciative of others’ experiences and will begin a long life of community service. If you have a story to tell or know someone who does, please contact Mrs. Yang at AWS.

### **STUDENT TUTORING BEGINS**

The AcaciaWood Associated Student Body (ASB) is now offering “Tutor Time” after school every Tuesday from 3:15-5:00 pm. Students of all grades are welcome to drop in or it is best to schedule a regular time of tutoring each week. Qualified high school students will provide the tutoring with a faculty supervisor in each room. Subjects tutored include math, sciences, history, Spanish, and English. Elementary students will be tutored separately in Room 302. A suggested *donation* of \$5.00 per session will be used to fund ASB projects at school. For more information please contact Ryan Pester at (714) 999-6962 or Karis Miyake at (714) 991-7217

### **SCRIP PROGRAM**

**Help AcaciaWood raise funds by participating in the “Scrip Program”.** AWS receives a percentage of your purchases from all of the following businesses when you firstly purchase the Scrip (certificates) from the school. It is easy to participate! Just come into the school office, or send in your student and purchase the Scrip from us. The Scrip is used exactly like cash and is sold in the following denominations:

99 Ranch	\$20.00	Stater Brothers	\$25.00
Ralphs/Food 4 Less	\$25.00	Smart n Final	\$25.00
Albertsons Card	--	No cost!	Just present at time of purchase.

Also available in various denominations: Exxon/Mobile gas cards and various certificates for fast food (i.e. Baskin Robbins, Burger King, Carl’s, KFC, Pizza Hut, and Wendy’s).

Many thanks to those using the Scrip program. We’d like to encourage more families to participate since the school receives a percentage from each sale!

### **EVENT CALENDAR**

#### **November 2002**

- **13**      **Quarter 1 awards assembly, 2:00 pm, MPR**
- 19      American Mathematics Council test
- 25      Progress reports to be mailed
- **27**      **Minimum day, student pick up at 1:00 pm**
- 28-29    Thanksgiving break, no school

#### **December 2002**

- 2      Thanksgiving break, no school
- 13      Last PE day, dismissal at 3:00 pm
- **20**      **Minimum day, no PE, dismissal at 1:00 pm**
- 23      Begin winter break, school resumes Jan. 6, ‘03
- 23-27    Winter training concessions
- 23-Jan.5    Winter break